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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/955,974	09/20/2001	Hiroyuki Takeno	P 283726 US 01-067	1920
909	7590	05/21/2004		EXAMINER
PILLSBURY WINTHROP, LLP				JULES, FRANTZ F
P.O. BOX 10500			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
MCLEAN, VA 22102			3617	

DATE MAILED: 05/21/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)
	09/955,974	HIROYUKI TAKENO ET AL
	Examiner Frantz F. Jules	Art Unit 3617

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on _____.
- 2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.
- 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 1-16 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) 6-16 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) Claim(s) 1-5 is/are rejected.
- 7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) Claim(s) 6-16 are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
 Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 a) All b) Some * c) None of:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
 Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 4) Interview Summary (PTO-413)
 Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 5) Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

1. Applicant's election of Figs. 1-3 and 14-16 in Paper No. 03172004 is acknowledged. Because applicant did not distinctly and specifically point out the supposed errors in the restriction requirement, the election has been treated as an election without traverse (MPEP § 818.03(a)).
2. Claims 6-16 are withdrawn from further consideration pursuant to 37 CFR 1.142(b), as being drawn to a nonelected specie, there being no allowable generic or linking claim. Applicant timely traversed the restriction (election) requirement in Paper No. 03172004.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

3. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.
4. Claims 1-5 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

In claim 1, lines 5-6, the phrase "a continuous pad ... and a single urethane rubber belt" is confusing as it unclear what particular structure applicant is referring to by a continuous pad when the drawings show a plurality of pads (20).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

5. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

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(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

6. Claims 1-3 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Yusaku (JP 06 316 280 A).

Claims 1-3

Yusaku discloses an endless track comprising an iron link belt including a link unit assembly constructed of a plurality of link units (4) connected to each other, each link unit including a pair of links; a continuous pad (9a) including the same number of core metal plates as that of said plurality of link units and a single urethane rubber belt, each of said core metal plates being fixed to each of said plurality of link units, said urethane rubber belt being attached to a ground opposing surface of each of said core metal plate and being formed into a predetermined configuration so as to cover each of said core metal plates, said urethane rubber belt being continuous over all of said core metal plates; and a connecting device for connecting said iron link bolt and said continuous pad at said link units and said core metal plates;
wherein each of said pair of links comprises at least one of a bent plate link and a forged link;
wherein said connecting device comprises at least one of a bolt-and-nut and a welding in accordance with claim 3.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

7. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and

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the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

8. Claims 1-5 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over The Prior Art Drawing Fig. 15 in view of Katoh (GB 2 229410).

Claims 1-5

The Prior Art Drawing Fig. 15 discloses an endless track comprising an iron link belt including a link unit assembly constructed of a plurality of link units connected to each other, each link unit including a pair of links;

A plurality of pads (4) including the same number of core metal plates as that of said plurality of link units and, each of said core metal plates being fixed to each of said plurality of link units, a connecting device for connecting said iron link bolt and said pads at said link units and said core metal plates;

The Prior Art drawings disclose all of the features as listed above but does not disclose pads that are linked together so as to form a continuous belt. The general concept of providing a continuous belt in an endless track is well known in the art as illustrated by Katoh which discloses the teaching of continuous belt in an endless track. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to modify The Prior Art Drawing Fig. 15 to incorporate the use of pads that are linked together in a continuous belt in his advantageous endless track as taught by Katoh in order to simplify manufacturing of the endless belt thereby reducing cost.

Conclusion

9. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure:

Ono is cited to show a related endless belt comprising a plurality of core metal plates embedded .

10. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Frantz F. Jules whose telephone number is (703) 308-8780. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Thursday and every other Friday.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Joseph S. Morano can be reached on (703) 308-0230. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Frantz F. Jules
Examiner
Art Unit 3617

FFJ

May 16, 2004

FRANTZ F. JULES
PRIMARY EXAMINER

